

where use of Bangladeshi soil by anti-India elements as well as Pakistan-based terrorist groups has come to the notice of Government.

(b) Government has regularly taken up the issue of illegal immigration with the Government of Bangladesh. There are also bilateral institutional mechanisms for discussing such issues.

(c) The Government of Bangladesh has assured us at the highest level that its territory will not be allowed to be used for activities inimical to India. Government of India has emphasized to them the need for concrete and sustained action towards fulfilling this assurance.

Joint Mechanism for Containing Terrorism

143. SHRIAMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of joint mechanism set up with Pakistan for containing terrorists activities in India;

(b) whether the details of the probe carried out by Mumbai Police which revealed intricate ISI terror network in India would be sent to the joint mechanism; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to ensure that the information passed by India in this regard would not be used by ISI to plug loopholes in carrying out such subversive designs in future?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) During Foreign Secretary level talks on 14-15 November 2006, it was agreed to set up a 3-member anti-terror mechanism headed by Additional Secretary (International Organisations) of the Ministry of External Affairs of India and Additional Secretary (UN & EC) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan. The mandate of the mechanism would be to consider counter-terrorism measures, including through the regular and timely sharing of information. The matter concerning cross-border links to Mumbai blasts was raised with Pakistan during the Foreign Secretary talks. Evidence on Mumbai blasts has not been given to Pakistan as the relevant charge-sheets are yet to be filed.

(c) Government of India is alert to the possible misuse of the information shared.

Post of UN Secretary General

144. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India put up Shri Shashi Tharoor for the post of UN Secretary General;

(b) whether Shri Tharoor had to withdraw from the race on account of US veto;

(c) the P-5 countries in particular and other countries in general that were taken into confidence before Shri Tharoor was put up as a candidate for the post of Secretary General of the UN; and

(d) if so, the reasons for this unprecedented debacle?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d) All permanent and non-permanent members of the Security Council as well as other countries were approached by the Government through diplomatic channels, seeking support for Shri Shashi Tharoor's candidature. Shri Tharoor visited many of the capitals as well as attended the AU Summit in Banjul. His informal meetings with various regional groups at the United Nations were organized. These efforts continued upto the penultimate round of the straw polls, in all four of which Shri Tharoor came second, close behind Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Minister of Foreign Affairs & Trade of the Republic of Korea. As the Security Council straw polls are conducted by a secret ballot, it can not be definitively determined as to which permanent member cast a 'discourage' ballot against Shri Tharoor in the penultimate round. Therefore, Government of India decided to voluntarily withdraw its candidate in consideration of its consistent view that the next Secretary General should be an Asian with the widest possible acceptability and to help generate a consensus on the selection of an Asian.